

BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE
MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT INSTITUTION
FOR THE BLIND

FOR THE
TWO YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 1906



BY AUTHORITY

LANSING, MICHIGAN
WYNKOOP HALLENBECK CRAWFORD COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS
1906

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Gift of
A. M. Shotwell

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MEN'S DORMITORY

FACTORY

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

LADIES' DORMITORY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Joseph Hudson..... Clare
James H. Malcolm.....Saginaw
William S. Bateman..... Albion
J. Perrine Hamilton, Superintendent.

OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

J. P. Hamilton, Superintendent.....	\$1,500 00
L. W. Bliss, physician.....	259 00
Frank Ross, engineer.....	660 00
Phillip H. Potter, man-of-all-work.....	600 00
F. T. Perrigo, foreman.....	600 00
Lenna M. Mead, matron.....	540 00
Theo. W. Stone, night-watch.....	540 00
Frank Felt, gardener.....	480 00
Elmer Cottrell, assistant gardener.....	480 00
Ambrose M. Shotwell, librarian.....	420 00
Frank H. Potter, assistant foreman.....	420 00
Edith J. Young, bookkeeper.....	420 00
Louise D. Draper, sewing teacher.....	360 00
Vira M. Engle, cook.....	300 00
C. Molle, broom teacher.....	300 00
Mary Ruthven, laundress.....	180 00
Maud LeDuke, chambermaid.....	180 00
Ruth Smith, chambermaid.....	180 00
Laura Eisenmann, visitor's attendant.....	150 00
Maud E. Dester, seamstress.....	150 00
Vina Hall, second girl.....	144 00
Maud Jones, Chambermaid.....	144 00
Bertha Boyer, waitress.....	120 00
Bertha Dayton, kitchen-maid.....	108 00

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

To His Excellency, Fred M. Warner, Governor of the State of Michigan,
and the Honorable Legislature of the State of Michigan:

Gentlemen—The board of trustees of the Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind herewith respectfully submits the second biennial report covering the two years ending June 30th, 1906.

At the beginning of the biennial period covered by this report, July 1st, 1904, work on the four buildings constituting this institution was fairly under way. During the six months from July 1st, 1904 to January 1st, 1905, the work of the board was largely that of inspecting progress on the buildings and paying the monthly estimates made by the architect. Besides this, the question of organizing the new institution and adopting rules for its government and conduct was an important one. After careful consideration it was decided to ask the executive committee of the Michigan Blind Peoples' General Welfare Association to submit a report covering recommendations on the trades practical to teach blind people, rules necessary or advisable in running such an institution, and the general policy to be adopted. On September 26, 1904, the board met in special session and Mr. C. N. Roberts, president of the Michigan Blind People's General Welfare Association, came before the board and presented a paper embodying such recommendations as required. This paper showed weeks of careful research and compilation and the rules and regulations suggested were adopted unanimously by the board. We believe this document to be of sufficient importance to the general cause of the education of the blind to merit insertion in this report and append it hereunto.

December 22nd, 1904, our buildings were formally dedicated and opened, though some inmates came a few weeks earlier.

On account of failing health, Mr. W. G. Van Auken, president of the board, resigned in December; the resignation to take effect as soon as his successor should be appointed by the Governor. Thomas Jackson of Saginaw, was appointed to fill out Mr. Van Auken's term but resigned after a term of three months. Mr. J. H. Malcolm of Saginaw was appointed to fill this vacancy so that the board as it is constituted at the present has been in existence since April, 1905.

The problems confronting us have been many and varied. The completion and occupation of the buildings have proved them to be well adapted to the use of blind people. The grounds have been brought from a swampy meadow to one of the beauty spots of the city. Walks have been laid and streets and drives put in usable shape. The institution has been organized and brought into good working condition. The class of

work done and the numbers benefited will be shown by the reports from the different departments.

At all times we have given all the time necessary to make this institution succeed. We have kept constantly in mind the welfare of the blind people entrusted to our care by the State. We have tried at all times to maintain a high standard of moral and educational worth, and from the letters of congratulation received from leaders in this work in all parts of the United States as well as our own State, we believe we are succeeding in this new work and that Michigan has just reason to be proud of this new phase of charitable work.

We are in urgent need of a warehouse for storing broom corn and brooms as our present factory is too small to work the number of men coming to the institution and at the same time store any reasonable amount of working materials.

The erection of a cottage for the superintendent seems to be a necessity. No provision for living rooms for a superintendent having been included in the original plans, it has been necessary to use three rooms in the main building for this purpose and aside from these rooms furnishing very limited living space, they are much needed now for other purposes. We therefore respectfully urge that you carefully consider the need for a special appropriation for the warehouse and cottage.

As the Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind is beginning to be better known throughout the State our numbers are increasing rapidly; we have therefore felt it necessary to ask for a slightly increased amount for current expense funds for the next two years.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. MALCOLM, President.

W. S. BATEMAN, Secretary.

JOSEPH HUDSON, Treasurer.



THE POWER HOUSE AND FACTORY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The first six months covered by this report were taken up almost entirely with attending to construction and furnishing of our buildings. After the dedication, December 22nd, 1904, the real work of organizing and getting the institution into good working shape began. After you had adopted the rules and regulations submitted by the executive committee of the Blind People's General Welfare Association the next important step was the selection of a capable and reliable corps of helpers. The selection of these people was no small task as a small percentage of sighted persons are fitted for caring for the blind. In many cases much outside influence was brought to bear to secure places for persons utterly unqualified to take positions in such an institution as this. Believing that the success of any State Institution depends very largely on the kind of help employed, I used my most careful judgement in all cases and when I found I had made mistakes in selection, changed as soon as possible. This was necessary in three cases, that of the assistant matron, the foreman of the broom shop and the engineer. Here I wish to express to you my profound gratitude for the liberal and businesslike way in which your body has persistently refused to allow outside influence to be brought to bear on filling the inferior offices here. It is absolutely essential that a superintendent and his assistants work in complete unison to get the best results and in every instance have you kept this in mind.

One of the first difficulties we encountered was the advertising of our institution. The public are slow to learn of the establishment of a new public institution and of course the blind necessarily learn about it very slowly. To get this matter started, letters were sent out to hundreds of postmasters, county agents, city mayors, supervisors and poor masters telling about the work and asking for names and addresses of any blind people about whom they might know. In addition to this the census report was carefully gone over and letters sent to the addresses of those shown to be blind by this report.

After careful study of the question, including visits to most of the leading institutions for the blind in this country and previous visits to institutions in Europe, it was decided that for a large number of blind people regularly engaged as well as being taught, the broom trade was the most practical. The demand for brooms is almost unlimited and there is almost nothing about the trade from the preparation of the corn to the bunching of the finished brooms which blind people cannot do unassisted. As our establishing act requires us not only to teach blind people trades, but to employ them after the trade has been learned if they care to remain and work, it is very necessary that there

be a ready market for the things manufactured. This is true of brooms to a greater extent than any other thing at which our people can work with ease and rapidity. Besides the broom trade, hammock making, chair caning and cobbling have been introduced. On account of the increasing popularity of machine-made hammocks there is a very limited market for those made by hand and the trade is not a paying one.

Up to the present time chair caning is the best thing we have been able to find for the women. Though not paying large wages, it furnishes them employment in their own homes and is clean light work which they can do well. In addition to this, the women learn fancy work of many kinds including knitting, crocheting, sewing and raffia work.

For men cobbling is one of the most practical trades we have found. A blind person with good mechanical ability can learn to repair shoes and can work fast enough to compete with sighted workmen. Any four corners will support a cobbling shop, so that those learning can return to their homes and start a small shop of their own with the added advantage that work is always brought and called for. We have taught two men to be successful workmen at cobbling.

As a matter of course our tuning department has not been at all crowded. Very few blind people becoming blind in later life are able to master the art of tuning a piano well and at the same time the necessary mechanical skill to enable them successfully to repair and regulate pianos. We have, however, turned out one good tuner and secured a position for another in a New York piano factory.

Here I wish to say a few words about the success of our general plan of work. The act establishing this institution was drafted by Mr. A. M. Shotwell and passed with a very few modifications. This plan, especially that part of it which involves rooming and boarding our apprentices and also our workmen has been severely criticised by some workers for the blind, more especially those from the east. Much can be said on both sides of this question and it is possible that we have not yet passed the experimental stage. It is not making the statement too strong to say that up to the present time our plan has been an unqualified success. We have as little or less trouble with our blind people drawn from all classes of society and all kinds of surroundings with habits already formed than does the average college faculty or university management with students presumably largely from good families and sent to pursue the higher studies. This is saying much in refutation of the statements made by many of our critics. Our buildings are separated far enough for all practical purposes. The men and women room in different buildings with the administration building located between them. In the institutions where such failures as our critics draw attention to have been made, apparently no thought was given in the planning and erection of buildings to the simplest principles involved to make good management possible. In several cases offices, shop and rooms for women and men are located all in the same building and then a howl is put up by workers for the blind that the State has no right to try to lodge and board blind people because institutions built this way have not been an entire success. I think it is fair to say that this one-building method has worked as well among the blind as such a dormitory arrangement would in any modern college in this country. Blind people necessarily earn small

wages and the theory that they should live outside such institutions as this, on account of the good they get from contact with the outside world, results in their living under saloons, over saloons, in garrets and cellars and basements and anywhere they can get in cheap. It seems to me as reasonable that the State should furnish board, room and care at cost, as that it should furnish materials for a work shop at cost and it is only fair to say that in California and Connecticut and so far in Michigan where the buildings have been properly arranged and the institution run with competent management, our system has been a success.

Dividing our total yearly cost of maintaining this institution by the number of learners enrolled during one year, necessarily gives a high per capita cost. The cost of administering, heating, lighting must be nearly as large for a few as for many, and of course during the first eighteen months our institution has not been full. This is not to be wondered at, as a very small percentage of the taxpayers of Michigan know even yet that this institution has been established and as the blind must get their information through sighted friends, many of them are in ignorance of Michigan's liberal provision for their welfare. When the institution fills up, which it is rapidly doing at the present time, the per capita cost will be much diminished.

The question is often asked—if the institution will not become self-supporting in time. With our plan as it has to be in order to accord with the establishing act, we can never become self-supporting or nearly so. Board, lodging and instruction are furnished free to apprentices and as they always furnish a large percentage of the total number enrolled, the State will always have a considerable amount to pay in order to maintain those learning. As a pure matter of dollars and cents, the blind who need help, like any other class needing help, could doubtless be taken care of more cheaply in poor houses or in other places where no attention is given to teaching trades. But if we take into consideration the renewed hope, the regained usefulness, and the brightened lives made possible by such institutions as these, they are doing their fair share of good in the world and are not expensive experiments as some politicians have denominated them.

During the period covered by this report, we have received and instructed seventy-four men and twenty women. Several of these have left and are self-supporting, a good share of the rest are here working on the pay roll and paying their board.

We have caned 81 chairs, mended a large number of shoes and have manufactured and sold 5.416 dozen brooms. Besides this the women have made a large amount of fancy work and raffia work for all of which we have found ready sale.

The general health of our inmates has been good, no serious sickness having occurred since the opening of our work here.

Before concluding this report, I wish to thank you of the Board of Trustees for your kindly and hearty support given me since I assumed charge of this work. I also wish to express my appreciation of the encouragement given us at all times by the State Board of Corrections and Charities. From the first this board has shown itself our firm friends and has given us many helpful suggestions and much good advice. This work is new to me as well as

to you, and friends who stand ready with kindly counsel instead of harsh criticism are especially desirable. The people of the city of Saginaw have been unusually kind to our people since the first of them came to the city. Many homes have been thrown open to our folks, the pastors of the city have given us their services Sunday afternoons for nine months in the year, the musicians have volunteered to give concerts so that our inmates have had the benefit of fine music here in our assembly hall, in short, Saginaw citizens have tried in every way possible to make the blind coming from all parts of the State feel at home here and have helped in our work more than they know.

Those in the employment of the institution have been especially faithful and at all times have shown themselves to be friends of the class of people amongst whom they are working. To all these who have helped us in our work, I wish to extend my hearty thanks.

The work here has succeeded and is succeeding far beyond our most sanguine hopes and you who have given so freely of your time and best thought for the building up of this work cannot but feel deeply gratified to see it succeeding so well.

Respectfully submitted.

Signed J. P. HAMILTON, Supt.



WINDING BROOMS.



WINDING BROOMS.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

THE FREE LENDING LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

To the Superintendent and Board of Trustees of the Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind, Saginaw, West Side, Michigan:

Gentlemen—I have the honor to submit the following report of the establishment, progress, condition, and needs of the Free Lending Library for the Blind maintained, according to law, in connection with this state institution, for the biennial period ended on the 30th of June, 1906, and of the educational work assigned to this department.

On the first of December, 1904, it was my privilege to enter upon the duties of assistant superintendent of this institution, chief among which are the care of the circulating library, and the instruction of the beneficiaries of the institution in typewriting and in the reading and writing of the current systems of embossed point characters suited to the use of sightless adults.

A few weeks later the buildings occupied by the institution were completed, and the valuable collection of books in various styles of raised print previously procured from various sources, was systematically arranged upon suitable shelving in the northwest corner room—size 16 by 22 feet—of the first story of the administration building; and a system of registration of the several readers and of the drawing and returning of books was adopted, as well as a method of securely wrapping the parcels for mailing to and from the Library, such as to facilitate the addressing, recording and handling of the reading matter by a person entirely deprived of sight. By simply transferring the tag bearing the reader's name and address to a different position upon the cover, he prepares it for returning to the Library, our address and the other required lettering being already plainly stamped upon the covers or cases employed in the transportation of these parcels by mail.

STATISTICS OF CIRCULATION, ETC.

During the first biennial period, a relatively large number of the inmates—40 males and 12 females—have required special academic instruction for longer or shorter periods, as many of them had not enjoyed the advantages of a school for the young blind, and desired at least to be able to read and write by the methods suited to the use of the blind.

Nevertheless, during the eighteen months ended on June 30, 1906, a good beginning in the work of the Library proper has been made, and no less than 1049 volumes or copies of embossed works, containing an average of about 100 pages of reading matter to the volume, have been distributed as a loan to about one hundred blind persons.

Of these 1049 volumes, 637 were printed in the American Braille type, the system exclusively taught to the young blind in the school at Lansing during the past thirteen years; eight were in European Braille systems; 264 in the New York point type (superseded at Lansing in 1893); and 140 in the Roman line-letter type—formerly in extensive use in schools for the young blind, but practically impossible of mastery by adults. We have thus far had no call for literature in the so-called Moon print.

VALUE OF RAISED PRINT AND ABILITY TO READ.

The needs of the blind as a class correspond in essential particulars with the varied needs of the rest of mankind, but they sometimes require to be met in special ways. All men require food, clothing, and shelter, and all require exercise or employment of the body and mind, together with suitable variety in the activity of their physical and mental powers. Life and liberty, an opportunity to participate in the useful occupations of normal existence and to attain a measure of independence in the pursuit of happiness, are surely among the inalienable rights of every healthy and self-respecting citizen; and after his opportunity to earn a decent subsistence for himself and those naturally and properly dependent upon him, a man's greatest need is an adequate supply of suitable helps to mental, social, and spiritual activity—chief among which are to be reckoned books, music and periodical literature and the ability to read and write.

Two familiar expressions uttered by one of the world's greatest thinkers three hundred years ago, may well form the key-note of library work, as of other forms of educational effort. Who can deny the essential truth in Lord Bacon's assertions, that "Knowledge is power," and that "Reading maketh a full man"? Who can estimate the edifying influence of familiarity with the great thoughts of the world's greatest writers? True, as Fuller says " 'Tis thought and digestion which makes books serviceable and gives health and vigor to the mind." But with Milton, we may well say, "As good almost kill a man as kill a good book. Many a man lives a burden to the earth; but a good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose, to a life beyond life."

If the works of the world's master minds and the periodical records of the progress of human events are of so much value to the general reader, how much more important (relatively speaking) must be a liberal supply of such productions in embossed characters for those intellectually and socially shut in as are the majority of our unseeing brothers and sisters. How applicable to their case are Dr. Dodd's words upon this subject in his "Thoughts in Prison"—

"Books, dear books,
Have been, and are, my comforts; morn and night,
Adversity, prosperity, at home,
Abroad, health, sickness—good and ill report,
The same firm friends; the same refreshment rich,
And source of consolation."

And in a similar vein, Mrs. Inchbald says, "Here, in the country, my

books are my sole occupation; books my sure solice, and refuge from frivolous cares. Books the calmers, as well as the instruction, of the mind."

We hold with Crabbe, that "Learning is better worth than house or land;" and we remember, with Gay, that

"Learning by study must be won;
 'Twas ne'er entailed from sire to son."

And yet, on the other hand, we would not be such blind book-worshippers as to overlook or repudiate Pope's contempt for

"The bookful blockhead, ignorantly read,
 With loads of learned lumber in his head."

Nevertheless, the truly efficient and successful librarian must endeavor to take so broad a view of life and human needs and of the various classes of publications as to be able, with one of Shakespeare's characters, to find "tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything."

LITERARY NEEDS OF THE BLIND AS DIVERSE AS THOSE OF THE SEEING.

Our specific needs are not all alike; and a good library must seek to meet the needs of various classes of readers. Rome was not built in a day; and a great library cannot, like Jonah's gourd, spring up in a night. A complete and fully developed library, with prompt, systematic, economical methods of service, and with suitable courses of study and diversion outlined for the diverse sections of the reading circle, must be a matter of growth. Some desirable features of the work could not be undertaken during our first biennial period, and are not yet ready for definite announcement; but a hopeful beginning has been made, and the initial disadvantages, unavoidably incident to such an undertaking, are being gradually overcome.

MAINTENANCE OF LENDING LIBRARY IMPERATIVE.

The charter of the Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind (Act No. 169, Laws of 1903, a copy of which in American Braille print is now in type for the use of the blind) requires the management to maintain a lending library and reading circle for the blind, a provision that appeared in all the successive phases of the bill for the establishment of this institution, and appeared to have the unanimous approval of Michigan law-makers. It has long been felt to be very desirable that somewhere in the State there should be a liberal collection of books, periodicals, sheet music, and other reading matter in various styles of embossed characters, and some one charged with the duty of caring for and distributing the same, and of giving necessary supervision and assistance to the home teaching and home study movement; and it seems highly fitting that this service should be assigned to those engaged in kindred work for other adult blind inhabitants of Michigan.

In the autumn of 1903, the State Library Authorities considered a suggestion that they might install a supply of embossed literature to be

sent out to different parts of the State with their Free Traveling Libraries but on account of the existing confusion of types for the blind, and other considerations, they decided to leave the matter entirely to the newly authorized institution, where the Legislature had placed it.

ONE THOUSAND VOLUMES, HOW OBTAINED.

At the suggestion of the present librarian, Supt. C. E. Holmes, of the school for the young blind at Lansing, with the approval of the Board of Control, kindly permitted our new Free Lending Library to take possession of several hundred volumes of reading matter embossed in the discarded Roman line-letter and New York point types, which had accumulated in the attics as fast as the space they occupied in the cases below was needed for the newer Braille books in current use. To this nucleus, additions were generously made by individuals, and by the Institution for the Blind at Philadelphia, and two hundred volumes of Braille matter were procured by the institution itself from the publishers in Louisville and Jacksonville, and further works in considerable number have been ordered from Louisville and Lansing. Thirty-three volumes of literature (largely religious in character) in the New York point system have been recently contributed to the Library by the Xavier (Catholic) Free Publication Society for the Blind, together with their Catholic Transcript for the Blind, a monthly magazine, and are being appreciated by increasing numbers of our readers; and we have been similarly indebted to our Seventh-Day Adventist friends in Nebraska for more than one copy (regularly) of their very interesting monthly, The Christian Record, which may be had in either the American Braille or the New York point system. Subscribers for the Sunday School Weekly and the (Milwaukee) Weekly Review for the Blind kindly file their copies with us after reading them; and we believe that these (in quarterly sets or volumes) are likely to prove of interest to some who have not found it practicable to read them from week to week as they have appeared. We also have back numbers—several volumes—of two British Braille monthly magazines, and of a French Braille publication, and if books in the late Dr. Moon's very large modified line type are desired, we could procure them upon application.

FREE TRANSMISSION OF LOANED READING MATTER BY MAIL FROM AND TO THE LIBRARY.

In the spring of 1904, Congress passed an act so amending the United States postal laws as to permit public libraries and public institutions for the blind to send out, free of postage, embossed books and other parcels of reading matter for the blind, as a loan to any blind reader, and likewise permitting such readers to return such books, music, hand-copied articles, etc., to such libraries free of postage. And hence, as soon as such libraries can be properly equipped, no reader of any kind of raised print, however straitened his worldly circumstances may be, need longer remain without the consolation of good books, music, or a knowledge of the progress of the world, so far as the same may have been printed in a type which each can read.

CATALOGUES AND CIRCULARS OF INFORMATION.

In the autumn of 1904 we issued a Braille catalog of all the books then in our Library at Saginaw, together with others that had been ordered from publishers or promised as contributions from friends of the Library; and a few weeks earlier a circular of information respecting the Library was published, both of which are still in current use. Revised editions will probably be issued in the near future, in which the available reading matter will be classified under appropriate headings, instead of being listed together alphabetically by authors and composers, as in the first edition. Condensed classified lists of our Roman line-letter and New York point matter will also be issued in the New York point type; also a complete list in ordinary ink print.

NEED OF HOME INSTRUCTION FOR ADULT BLIND.

The subject of Library Work for the Blind in general has been so fully and ably presented by Supt. E. E. Allen, in his paper read and discussed before the Saginaw Conference of American Workers for the Blind last year, that it is unnecessary here to review all the important points brought out in that paper and that discussion. A few suggestions, however, that were not unanimously approved, may well be noted a little further on.

Fifteen-sixteenths of the blind of the United States are out of school, and three-fourths of these have lost their sight when too old to be received as pupils in a school for the young blind. How are these to be reached with reading matter and the art of reading? Michigan has properly delegated the solution of this problem to the Free Lending Library at Saginaw; but its effectual achievement requires more than mere authority. Not only do we need books, pamphlets, mailing-cases, and catalogs in abundance, but also competent sightless teachers for the home-visiting work, beginners' lesson cards, and other helps that cost money; and whatever assistance may be rendered in this work through the public libraries in a few large cities, like Detroit and Grand Rapids, far more will still remain to be done in the smaller places and the rural districts under the immediate supervision of the Library at Saginaw. Some small beginnings have already been made in this direction, and, if means permit, they should be largely increased in the near future. It may be, in time, that some industrial training will be combined with this home-teaching movement, as is now done in Massachusetts.

THE BLIND OF MICHIGAN BENEFITTED BY CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES AND READERS.

With reference to the library itself, it is believed that its field of usefulness might be properly and advantageously extended, and that one fully equipped library of embossed reading matter at Saginaw, if it could carry upon its shelves at least one copy of every useful publication for the blind might well serve all the sightless readers who could be reached within, say, twenty-four hours by the United States mails from central Michigan. And wherever the owner of a few good books in any style of raised print, or of a valuable collection of Braille or New York point music, are disposed to contribute the same to our li-

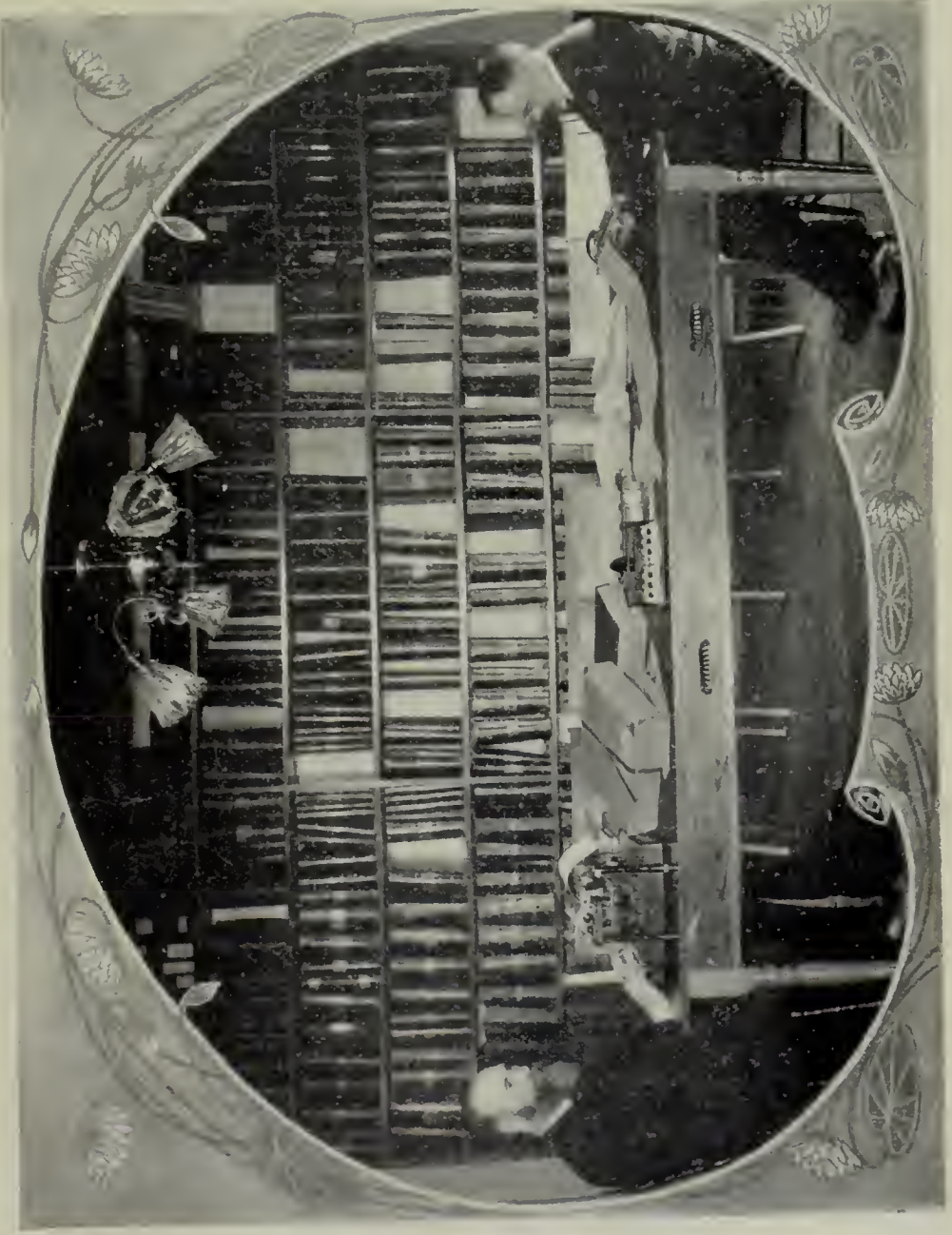
brary, as some have done, thus benefitting the blind of Michigan, we can hardly refuse, indeed, we must heartily welcome them to the privileges of the library in return for such favors, even if they reside beyond our State lines. A few large and well equipped libraries for the blind are surely preferable to a lot of small local collections of poorly selected books. Still it is our purpose to co-operate with the local libraries that have collections of books for the blind or that may be undertaking any kind of work for the blind of their locality. The local libraries may be more satisfactory distributing points than the postoffices of some places, since the rural and city carriers are not obliged to deliver our large parcels at the homes of the readers, although thus far the rural mail carriers have been very accommodating in this matter, and their kindness is highly appreciated.

IMPORTANCE OF PROGRESS TOWARD ACCURATE AND UNIFORM PRINTING FOR THE BLIND.

In Mr. Allen's masterly paper of one year ago on Library Work for the Blind, there are very few propositions to be called into question; but we are not yet prepared to accept his postulates with reference to the solution of the print problem, altho librarians and publishers of magazines for the blind are compelled to recognize the imperative importance of early steps in the direction of uniformity of methods of printing for the English-speaking blind; and we believe that the careful efforts of the Uniform Type Committee of our American Association of Workers for the Blind should be heartily seconded, and carried to a useful consummation within the next two years.

We are not yet prepared to concede that the giant, ox-path Moon print, widely employed for aged adults in Great Britain, is the only style of embossed letters suited to the requirements of those who lose their sight at fifty or sixty years of age, being rather inclined to the opinion that coarsely spaced and distinctly embossed Braille or New York point characters are capable of meeting the requirements of nearly, if not quite, all of our people who will ever make valuable use of any tangible typographical system; and books so printed would not be wholly useless to the younger generation of sightless readers.

But the contention in Mr. Allen's paper with which we must most sharply take issue, is the claim that the use of all special word, syllable, and part-syllable signs in printed books for the blind should be abandoned. He is urging with great force and with some apparent plausibility, that the point system of the future will embody certain principles, among which he persistently places "the use of full spelling. Here is a part of his argument in his own language: "To be able to use contractions and special abbreviations in writing, is to be able to save time, labor, and paper—a sufficiently important possibility. Contractions are therefore proper in written work and an important adjunct to it. In printed books the only item gained by contracted spelling is space or paper; but the mental labor of the reader is increased." He elsewhere expressly advocates the plan of "making embossed books models for written work done with slate and stylus." And yet he would have this admittedly "proper" and "important adjunct" suppressed in these models. He holds that the ideal point system of the future will



THE LIBRARY, WHERE READING AND TYPEWRITING ARE TAUGHT.

include or embody (3) the "greatest number of possible characters within a practical letter base;" and yet he would carefully avoid the use of about half of these readily distinguishable characters in all our printed matter. Surely the way to an acceptable uniform system for users of British Braille, American Braille, New York point types cannot lie in that direction. The primary or purely alphabetical forms of these systems may suffice for beginners and for a few readers of adult age; but, beyond the first and second primary school grades, we are confident that readers of maturity and intellectual vigor will generally prefer the use of a moderate number of readily recognizable symbols for very familiar words and for frequently recurring syllables and parts of syllables and that the indifference of some exceedingly facile readers is not a valid argument against the use of such signs, which are so highly preferred by those of slower perception. It may be remarked in passing that publishers of New York point print are inclined to increase rather than to abandon, the use of contractions in their publications. Surely progress in this matter must be based upon scientific truth, not mere theory; and it is to be hoped that the impartial determination of the truth may be forwarded through the efforts of the present investigating committee of the American Association, and that the cause of the blind may be distinctly advanced through its ninth biennial conference next year as it seems to have been by the work of the Saginaw Conference of last year.

EDUCATIONAL CHARACTER, AND CORRESPONDING NEEDS, OF THIS INSTITUTION.

One other matter touching the Library seems to merit attention at this point.

The people of the State of Michigan have directed this institution to give suitable instruction to sightless adults in need of such training; and this duty has been undertaken in good faith. The institution at Saginaw is not a copy of any other establishment; and its work and methods are very different in important particulars from those of any other working home or trade-training school for adults.

Those who have recently become blind in adult life without losing their other powers, have the same need of being fitted for the life of the sightless as have those who have never seen or who may have lost their vision in childhood. They need an opportunity to learn to read and write as blind people may. True, this training may be more rapidly accomplished than if they had not in most cases already acquired the elements of an education before the loss of sight; but the special helps in the way of books and institution service, are as necessary in their case as in that of the young blind. All who come to us at Saginaw who have the desire and ability to do so, are afforded an opportunity to learn typewriting and reading and writing of raised characters, and some have come to us with nothing further in view. What propriety could there be in teaching the blind of any age to read, if they were to have no opportunity afterward to gratify their newly acquired taste and talent for reading? Why mock the blind with an education, if they are to have no opportunity after a brief term of pupilage, to live the lives for which it fits them?

The Federal Government spends ten thousand dollars yearly for the production of embossed books for the blind, to be distributed to them thru public institutions that educate the blind. Under the authority of law, we are trying to do that work at Saginaw, as truly as does the school for the young blind at Lansing; and in carrying out the expressed will of the people of Michigan for the proper training of those who come to us for that purpose, instead of to the school at Lansing which excludes them, and for the instruction and benefit (thru our Lending Library and reading circle) of the still greater number of sightless adults at their homes, our present and prospective need of embossed books in considerable quantity and variety, for the use of the blind, such as are produced thru the Federal aid fund, is quite as great as that of the average American school for the young blind.

We think we have a legal and moral right to our quota of the books published at Louisville at Federal expense, and we have duly applied for the same. Supt. Huntoon, however, declines to honor our requisition, arbitrarily claiming that we have no more right to these books than fifteen or twenty other homes or workshops for adults—many of which give no instruction literary or industrial, and maintain no libraries for the blind of their respective states or localities. He therefore greatly exaggerates the probable number who might claim the like privilege to share, pro rata, in the benefits of the National Printing-House fund.

The difficulty of obtaining suitable books and pamphlets, is now the chief hinderance to the growth of our Library and the library movement elsewhere. But there are rifts in the clouds, and with proper support and encouragement, we foresee a bright future for our work and the cause of the blind at large.

Respectfully submitted,

A. M. SHOTWELL, Librarian.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST'S REPORT.

Mr. Hamilton and the Board of Directors of the Michigan Institution for the Employment of the Blind, Saginaw, Michigan:

Gentlemen—I beg herewith to furnish a report of the examination of the inmates of the Michigan Institution for the Employment of the Blind in my capacity as Consulting Ophthalmologist to the Institution. I visited the institution Saturday, September 30th, 1905, and began the work of diagnosing the diseases which has brought them to the institution. This work consumed an entire day—and was interesting from a statistical and scientific standpoint. I have attempted to classify the Eye diseases, from which the inmates suffer—although a strict classification, except for those with a knowledge of Ocular diseases, is difficult. I found 48 inmates representing 63 different diseases. It will thus be seen that some of those examined had more than one disease. The degree of blindness in different persons differed very considerably. Thus some were totally blind, while others still retain enough vision to be very helpful to themselves. There is but one person in the institution, as an inmate, whose vision can be helped by operation. A classification by diseases follows:

Accidental injuries.....	8
Argyria	4
Buphthalmos	4
Cataract	6
Concial Cornea	2
Corneal Scars and Opacities.....	12
Optic Atrophy (primary and secondary).....	18
Dislocation of lens.....	1
Entropion	1
Iritis	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3
Sympathetic Ophthalmia	4

I find that the following operations have been performed by various operators, in attempts to restore vision, or the vision having been lost an endeavor has been made to relieve the suffering which the patient was enduring by removing the eye.

Eneucleation	6
Ireductomy	4
Operations upon the lids.....	5

With your permission I feel constrained to speak of the excellent condition in which I found the inmates. Their general condition of health

is good. Their dormitories are well ventilated, their food nourishing and good, and their sanitary and hygienic surroundings all that could be desired. In every way they are well cared for and there is abundant evidence of the wisdom and interest which is manifested in their behalf by those in authority. The State is to be congratulated in thus providing for a class of deserving and unfortunate citizens.

I am, Gentlemen, yours very truly,

Signed FLEMMING CARROW.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Superintendent and Board of Trustees of the Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind, Saginaw, Mich.:

I have the honor to report for the period commencing December, 1904 and ending June 30th, 1906:

First—The general health of the inmates of this institution has been good, with the exception of a few cases of LaGrippe, Malaria with Diarrhoea. There have been few accidents which have required surgical attention, which speaks well for the watchfulness and care of the attendants. The sanitary condition of the grounds and buildings has been good, as there have been no contagious diseases or epidemics.

Second—All the patients have been treated and cared for in the buildings without the aid of special nurses, with one exception. That was from an incised wound of the hand, followed by Traumatic Erysipelas. He was sent to the Saginaw General Hospital and cared for by me at that institution. He recovered and returned to work with only a slight deformity of the hand.

Third—Considering that the buildings were all new and had not been occupied prior to December, 1904, the sickness with no deaths proves the old proverb not true, "that if you build a house let your enemies occupy it the first year, and yourself the second and you will have no enemies." During the first three months I was obliged to visit the institution every day or every other day, with usually from three to four inmates being sick and excused from work, which was a very good average when you consider that the average number of inmates is from forty-five to fifty, three-quarters male and one-quarter female.

Fourth—The general health being so good, with very little Diarrhoea and Stomach complications, I think it undoubtedly due to the plain wholesome food and the systematic mode of living. I have made on an average of three visits a week with the examination of from two to five patients each time on the sickroll, since the first three months.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed LYMAN W. BLISS, M. D.

STATE OF MICHIGAN.

MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

In account with Joseph Hudson, Treasurer, for year ending June 30, 1905.

	Dr.	Cr.
Current expenses:		
Salaries and wages	\$6,772 10	
Food	2,241 94	
Laundry expenses	566 63	
Heating	1,195 76	
Light	249 59	
Medical supplies	70 57	
Stationery, printing, etc.	731 41	
Amusement and instruction	1,118 76	
Household supplies	494 23	
Furniture and bedding	1,332 93	
Improvements and repairs	4,171 86	
Tools and machinery	471 34	
Farm, garden, stock and grounds	2,140 85	
Freight and transportation	765 66	
Miscellaneous expenses	331 29	
Industrial training expenses	3,510 73	
Former year fund	2,658 57	
Special expenses	67,247 03	
Balance on hand		\$4,546 89
State Treasurer		22,916 65
Superintendent		2,618 72
Special expense		65,000 00
Balance overdrawn		988 99
Total	\$96,071 25	\$96,071 25

MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

In account with Joseph Hudson, treasurer, for the year ending June 30, 1906.

	Dr.	Cr.
Balance overdrawn	\$988 99	
Current expenses:		
Salaries and wages	13,357 28	
Food	4,495 52	
Laundry expenses	148 47	
Heating	1,329 97	
Light	465 95	
Medical supplies	198 82	
Stationery, printing, etc.	277 81	
Amusement and instruction	41 77	
Household supplies	540 53	
Furniture and bedding	353 35	
Improvements and repairs	1,833 85	
Tools and machinery	70 81	
Farm, garden, stock and grounds	847 69	
Freight and transportation	1,312 66	
Miscellaneous expenses	301 96	
Industrial training expenses	10,694 57	
Special expenses	6,766 91	
Balance to new account	1,271 17	
State Treasurer		\$25,420 36
Superintendent		13,375 28
Special expenses		6,502 44
Total	\$45,298 08	\$45,298 08

LIST OF MEN INMATES AND LEARNERS.

Name.	Residence.
Alger, Frank.....	Clare, Mich.
Anderson, John.....	Ironwood, Mich.
Arnold, Elmer.....	Charlevoix, Mich.
Bruce, Chas. L.....	Niles, Mich.
Budd, James M.....	Ottawa Co., Mich.
Chambers, Benson.....	Miller, Mich.
Chegwedden, Wm.....	Victoria, Mich.
Chevrier, Joseph C.....	Escanaba, Mich.
Conger, Guy.....	Clare, Mich.
Cooper, Leroy W.....	Big Rapids, Mich.
Cowles, Calvin.....	Goodells, Mich.
Curtis, John R.....	Allegan, Mich.
De Groot, Raymond.....	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Dickey, Edward.....	Detroit, Mich.
Dolton, Wm.....	Bath, Mich.
Driscoll, John.....	Houghton, Mich.
Edwards, Geo.....	Saginaw, Mich.
Faux, Paul.....	Lansing, Mich.
Fuller, Earl H.....	Hemlock, Mich.
Fuller, Harvey A.....	Hillsdale, Mich.
Gruber, Harry.....	Battle Creek, Mich.
Gustafson, Robert.....	Coopersville, Mich.
Halsted, A. M.....	Port Huron, Mich.
Harriott Geo. A.....	Saginaw, Mich.
Hetterschied, James C.....	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Holland, John.....	Swartz Creek, Mich.
Hopkins, Earl W.....	Owosso, Mich.
Howard, John.....	Bay City, Mich.
Huff, Elba.....	Caledonia, Mich.
Hunt, Geo. J.....	Iron Mountain, Mich.
Ingaldue, Fred.....	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Kamhout, Harrick.....	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Kay, Wm.....	Port Huron, Mich.
Kelley, Geo.....	Orleans, Mich.
Kellogg, Fred W.....	Holland, Mich.
Kennison, Wm.....	Sand Lake, Mich.
Kettel, Henry C.....	Detroit, Mich.
Kieпка, August.....	Detroit, Mich.
Levitt, Wolf.....	Detroit, Mich.
Lewis, Joseph.....	Charlevoix, Mich.
Lewis, W. T.....	Traverse City, Mich.
McCarty, Anthony.....	Fremont, Mich.
McConnell, Wm. S.....	Lansing, Mich.

McCrea, Ewd.....	Clare, Mich.
Molle, Constant J.....	Nadean, Mich.
Moore, Wm. F.....	Detroit, Mich.
Mumson, Gardner D.....	Stanton, Mich.
Nichols, Orin S.....	Vestaburg, Mich.
Ortman, Wm.....	Saginaw, Mich.
Palmer, Wm.....	Pine Lake, Mich.
Pittinger, Cland.....	Petoskey, Mich.
Quinn, Eugene O.....	Detroit, Mich.
Richter, Julius.....	Escanaba, Mich.
St. Yve, Avarice.....	Menominee, Mich.
Sanders, Sylvan.....	Albion, Mich.
Schleif, John.....	Detroit, Mich.
Schultz, Herman H.....	Orleans, Mich.
Schraft, Fred.....	Lansing, Mich.
Smith, Albert.....	Portland, Mich.
Smith, James P.....	Eloise, Mich.
Snyder, Philip.....	Marengo, Mich.
Spencer, James B.....	Ann Arbor, Mich.
Tuck, John W.....	Paigns, Mich.
Ullrick, Otto.....	Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
Van Sickle, Geo. E.....	Morley, Mich.
Wagner, Bernard.....	Detroit, Mich.
Weitzmann, Emil.....	Detroit, Mich.
Whitting, F. W.....	Port Huron, Mich.
Wilson, Fred N.....	Jackson, Mich.
Wilson, Sam'l.....	Saginaw, Mich.
Wittig, J. K.....	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Wood, Joseph.....	Traverse City, Mich.
Wyatt, John E.....	Rudyard, Mich.
Zauder, Albert.....	Daggett, Mich.

LIST OF WOMEN INMATES AND LEARNERS.

Name.	Residence.
Anderson, Jessie W.....	Battle Creek, Mich.
Austin, B. Eva.....	Dorr, Mich.
Bustard, Martha J.....	Coopersville, Mich.
Coleman, Emily.....	Paw Paw, Mich.
Dayton, Bertha.....	Riley Center, Mich.
Dester, Maude E.....	Berrien Springs, Mich.
Dubay, Ida.....	Merrill, Mich.
Edwards, Elcena.....	Saginaw, Mich.
Eisenmann, Laura N.....	Temperance, Mich.
Fitzpatrick, Janie B.....	Battle Creek, Mich.
Gauthier, Agnes I. T.....	Detroit, Mich.
Graebner, Clara.....	Saginaw, Mich.
Harris, Libby J.....	Holland, Mich.
Jensen, Elsie N.	Big Rapids, Mich.
Playter, Cora	Kent City, Mich.
Playter, Grace.....	Kent City, Mich.
Smith, Anna.....	Saginaw, Mich.
Stewart, Retta.....	Lakeport, Mich.
Thayer, Luella.....	Ypsilanti, Mich.
Willson, Clara M.	Clifford, Mich.

Michigan Board of Corrections and Charities,

Lansing, Nov. 5, 1906.

Mr. J. P. Hamilton, Supt. of the Mich. Employment Institution for the Blind, Saginaw, Mich.

Dear Sir—Your communication to the State Board of Corrections and Charities, submitting for its consideration and opinion the proposed appropriations for the institution for the years 1907 and 1908, has been received. The home has been visited and its "condition and needs investigated." The appropriations proposed have had careful consideration, and the State Board submits herewith its opinion of the same.

Current expenses\$57,200.00

Approved.

Superintendent's cottage and furnishing..... \$8,500.00

The almost entire lack of room and accommodations in the administration building, for a residence, makes the contemplated cottage a necessity. The amount asked for its erection, completion and furnishing, does not seem to the board exorbitant. The item is approved.

Ware house \$2,000.00

The need of this in which to store stock and manufactured products is very apparent, and is approved.

Land \$670.00

This is required to cover an overdraft which was caused by a misapprehension in expending funds, and should be provided for. Approved.

Plants and shrubs \$1,300.00

Approved.

Filling and grading 1,000.00

Approved.

Very respectfully,

RT. REV. GEO. D. GILLESPIE, Chairman.

L. C. STORRS, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MICHIGAN BLIND PEOPLE'S GENERAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind:

Gentlemen—Upon June 28, 1904, the resolution which had been adopted at the meeting held by your board the previous day, requesting the Executive Committee of the Michigan Blind People's General Welfare Association to prepare a detailed report on everything pertaining to the management and operation of an institution of this character, was communicated to the chairman of that Committee by your Secretary, Mr. W. S. Bateman. Since that date, the time has been spent in collecting letters, reports and general information upon which to base a report that should be suggestive and practical, and as extensive and comprehensive as the time and means at our disposal could make it.

Allow us first to express our sincere and hearty appreciation to the board for their courtesy thus shown to us, and the great pleasure it affords us to have this opportunity of thus expressing our opinions upon the many important questions which present themselves for settlement.

The questions are many of them very complex, and allow wide differences of opinion. Many of them have been only partly solved by other institutions of similar character, and hence their experience can only be a guide to us, and not a criterion upon which to form a judgment. We have not endeavored in any way to set forth all the possible theories concerning these questions; but have in every case endeavored to reduce them to a practical basis which should stand the test of application, trial, and continued practice. As we have noted there are opportunities for variation of opinion upon nearly every point; and we shall, consequently, not think it strange if, after a careful consideration of the facts and conclusions herein submitted, the board should adopt and apply measures differing in many ways from those we suggest.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.

We can only advise: but if by this report we shall have assisted the board in any degree in solving these problems, adjusting these difficulties, or shall have aided you in any way by our work, we shall consider ourselves well paid for the time, labor and expense involved in its preparation.

Lansing, Mich., August 30 and 31, 1904.

SECTION I.—TERMS OF ADMISSION.

1. What the Institution is Not.—The Institution is not an "Asylum for the Blind," nor a "Home for the Aged and Infirm." Section 10 of the Government Act of 1903, pursuant to which the Institution has been

established, defines the Institution as an "industrial and polytechnic school and factory, and a working home" for the adult blind. Any tendency in the popular mind to construe the purpose of the Institution into meaning a refuge for blind people who are mentally or physically defective—as is too often the case where blindness is congenital or the result of severe illness—should be sternly and permanently guarded against. Any similar tendency to believe it a home where aged blind people, no longer able to work or do for themselves, are to be cared for at state expense, should likewise be avoided. Nor should it be thought a hospital, established for the opportunities it might afford for ocular treatment.

2. For Whom Established.—But in section 15 of the Governing Act, we find, "There shall be received in said institution as apprentices or learners, as assisted wards, or as wage-workers, all those persons, residents of this state, or if minors, whose parents or guardians are residents of this state, between the ages of eighteen and sixty years, who are of good moral character, and in suitable condition of body and mind to receive instruction therein afforded, or by their labor or services to earn the cost of their own support." This forms the foundation upon which the terms of admission should be based. It may not be amiss, however, for us to suggest further some wholesome conditions or restrictions upon admission that might be imposed upon each applicant.

3. Admission Not General; Superintendent to Discriminate.—"Admit nobody you can possibly keep out." This expression from an inmate of the Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men in Philadelphia, although plainly an hyperbole, is yet a very terse expression of a fundamental principle. The Institution should in nowise encourage any blind person who is earning for himself a livelihood at any legitimate or honorable trade or calling, to leave that occupation with the hope of availing himself of an easier means of accumulating money or relieving himself of the responsibility of self-maintenance. In a crowded condition of the Institution, the superintendent should be urged to discriminate very carefully as to the needs of applicants either as apprentices or as wage-workers.

4. Applicant Able to Work.—The superintendent might well assure himself that every applicant understands the purpose of the Institution, and is willing to work; idleness cannot be tolerated. And it would seem proper that at any time a person might justly be dismissed upon repeated refusal to do the work required of him.

5. Should Not Remain as Apprentices.—It would seem desirable that when any apprentice or learner becomes skilled enough to earn at current wages an amount exceeding the cost of his maintenance, he should be transferred to the payroll of wage-workers, thereby relieving relatives or friends or the county sending him and the State of the continued responsibility of providing for him, and also giving him an opportunity to lay aside something from his earnings with a view to starting an independent business for himself, or providing against possible future necessity.

6. Applicant to Furnish Information, Certificate of Residence and of Need of Assistance.—Each applicant should be required to furnish information as to date of birth, condition of health, visual condition, cause of defective vision, together with any other data necessary to the



SORTING AND PREPARING BROOM CORN.

permanent records of the Institution. If entitled to assistance from the county in which he resides, as provided for in section 16 of the Governing Act, he should be required to furnish a certificate from the proper county, township, or other municipal officer, certifying to such need and that he is entitled to such assistance. Every applicant should be required to furnish for the records and use of the Institution a certificate from the proper county, township, or other municipal officer, certifying his place of residence upon entering the Institution or any change of residence during his stay therein, so that, at any time, should such person for any cause become dependent upon the county in which he resides for any manner of assistance as provided for in the Governing Act, the responsibility may be fixed upon the proper county, and not rest upon the Institution.

7. No Color Line, Etc.—There is still one phase of this subject which demands especial emphasis. It may best be expressed by quoting verbatim from a letter from Mr. A. M. Shotwell to the State Board of Corrections and Charities under date of Jan. 31, 1903, in answer to several questions asked by the board regarding the proposed institution. The answer to the fifth question reads as follows: "There should be no discrimination for or against applicants, inmates, or beneficiaries of good moral character, on account of race, color, nationality, political or religious affiliation or belief; and no color line should be drawn to the disadvantage of any person. But the management should not unnecessarily compel the intimate association (or commingling) of persons distinctly incompatible on account of race or belief."

8. Part-Year Beneficiaries.—Finally there is a class of blind people who are able to provide for themselves during a part of the year; but whose business for one cause or another is not self-supporting during the remaining part. We would suggest that, if the condition of the Institution is not crowded and the output of the factory greater than can be marketed without loss, such persons should be allowed to enter the Institution during the dull season of their business, more generally as wage-workers, but as apprentices in cases where, in the opinion of the management, the learning of new trades seem to be desirable, or where the three years' limit which is permitted by section 15 of the Governing Act for such apprenticeship has not been previously reached.

SECTION II.—RULES AND REGULATIONS.

9. Good Government Necessary.—The law-abiding citizen feels no restraint from any wholesome law until for some purpose he desires to violate that law. The rules which we here submit are those which, in effect, govern every well-regulated household; but are made, not to trouble the peaceful and law-abiding members of the Institution, but to restrain any who would violate them, thereby trespassing on the rights of others. In addition to the experience of other institutions along these lines, we have been guided largely by the rules now in force at the Soldiers' Home in Grand Rapids, which, indeed, have served us as models; and we feel confident that they will prove wholesome and judicious, while not harsh or extremely rigid. The administration should be provided with the necessary means to enforce good government, if

such cannot be otherwise attained; and this can be done only with a thoroughly practical code of rules.

10. Code of Rules.—The following is the drafted code of rules approved by our Committee, any or all of which may be adopted as the basis of government of the Institution, with our full and unqualified approval:

(1) All apprentices, wage-workers and other members of the Institution will conduct themselves at all times in a quiet and orderly manner, and observe strict courtesy toward the officers and in intercourse with each other. They will discharge such duties as may be required of them by the superintendent or by his orders. Any member who is habitually intoxicated or disobeys orders may be summarily dismissed by the superintendent, subject to the subsequent approval of the Board of Trustees.

(2) Profanity and vulgarity are forbidden; and quarrels or disorderly conduct among the members or employes will subject the offenders to discipline.

(3) The use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage upon the grounds or in the buildings is strictly forbidden; and any member bringing intoxicating liquors upon the grounds or into the buildings to be used as a beverage, or coming upon the grounds or into the buildings, or found upon the grounds or in the buildings in an intoxicated condition shall be disciplined at the discretion of the superintendent.

(4) No unnecessary noise such as talking, walking the floor with shoes on, or coming in noisily, will be allowed between the prescribed hour for retiring and the hour for rising.

(5) Scrupulous cleanliness in person and dress is enjoined, and all members must take a bath once a week.

(6) Water, sweeping, or refuse of any sort shall not be thrown from the windows or doors of the buildings, but shall be deposited in such place or places as may be designated by the superintendent or his representative.

(7) Marking or otherwise defacing the buildings is forbidden and destroying or damaging the lawn, trees, shrubbery, fences, structures, subject the offender to punishment or dismissal and render him liable to the Institution for damage.

(8) Members shall not enter the shops or factory outside of prescribed working hours, nor the barns, stables, boiler-room, laundry, kitchen, bakery, nor any building other than their respective dormitories, without the permission of the superintendent or his duly authorized representative.

(9) At the prescribed hour, members shall rise, wash, and dress themselves neatly; and when assembled for meals, the officer in charge of the dining room shall refuse admittance or service to any not neat in appearance.

(10) A call will be sounded fifteen minutes before each meal to allow preparation therefor.

(11) No member shall smoke in any of the buildings of the Institution except in such place or places as designated by the superintendent. And members using chewing tobacco in any of the buildings of the Institution elsewhere shall provide themselves with suitable cuspadors

and keep the same in a cleanly condition. And expectorating upon any of the floors, walls, walks, furniture, fixtures or personal property of the Institution is strictly forbidden.

(12) At 9:30 p. m. all members shall retire to their rooms, and at 10 o'clock all the dormitories must be quiet.

(13) No members or employes other than persons assigned to such duty shall at any time touch or handle the furnaces, ranges, lights (other than the lights in their respective rooms), bells, sewer, or water-works of the Institution.

(14) Members living in the Institution shall not leave the grounds, nor be absent from the grounds, after 7:30 p. m. nor on Sundays nor legal holidays, without the consent of the superintendent.

(15) All officers and employes of the Institution must be kind and courteous in their conduct to the members; and profane, abusive, or vulgar language is strictly forbidden. In case of neglect or ill treatment or neglect by an officer or employe, complaint should be made to the superintendent.

(16) The superintendent is authorized in meeting out punishment for the violation of these rules to compel the offending party to perform such duty for such length of time without pay as he may think the nature of the offense shall merit.

11. Married Beneficiaries.—It does not seem advisable for various reasons that married beneficiaries should be allowed to live in the Institution. Workmen might be allowed perhaps, to take their midday meal there; but further than this the facilities of the Institution are so entirely inadequate for the purpose as to make it very impracticable to allow the workmen to retain their wives or families therein. But when upon the grounds or in the buildings for any purpose, they should be subject to the same rules and regulations as those who board and lodge regularly in the Institution.

12. Safeguards of Social Order.—Concerning necessary safeguards of social order and decorum, in Mr. Shotwell's letter to the Board of Corrections and Charities already referred to in section 1 of this report, (paragraph 7), we find in answer to the fourth question, the following: "The sexes should be separated except in public gatherings or otherwise under the immediate supervision of responsible persons; but orderly members of a self-supporting family connected with the Institution would not probably require express rules other than those regulating all well-ordered households. The orderly assembling of inmates in literary, musical, or religious organizations, or for purposes of instruction, listening to suitable public reading or lectures, or other orderly entertainments, need not be prohibited; and only individual offenders need be disciplined for exceptional abuse of privileges." If the foregoing code of rules, submitted in paragraph 10, be thought not sufficiently strong in regard to social order to protect the integrity, honor and good name of the Institution and its beneficiaries, additional rules should be drafted to meet this specific requirement.

13. Evening Exercises; Social Gatherings.—Pursuant to the idea set forth in the quotation contained in the preceding paragraph, we desire to offer one further suggestion before leaving this subject. We would suggest that the hour between 7:30 and 8:30 o'clock each evening be spent in reading the current news of the day, together with such other

entertaining or instructive reading as might seem most desirable and profitable. This might be varied by other exercises as occasion and opportunity should afford. We would further suggest that the half hour following such exercises be given to a social gathering of all members of the Institution, thus allowing all necessary social privileges. All such evening exercises and gatherings should be in such place and under the supervision of such responsible persons as the superintendent might designate. It would seem best, however, that attendance upon these exercises and gatherings should be entirely optional rather than mandatory or compulsory.

SECTION III.—EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIES FOR THE MEN.

14. *Employment Limited.*—In this swiftly advancing age of industrial and mechanical progress, the hand workman has been displaced by the invention of intricate and complex machinery to do the same work with vastly greater rapidity. So greatly has this change come about, that it has limited the number of employments open to successful operation by most blind people to a very few. And many of these few are so unremunerative as not to be very practicable as a means of self-support.

In the selection of employments and industries for the Institution, the principle should be kept in mind which is only the affirmation of sound business policy; viz., to produce that article which can be produced with greatest ease and facility and for which the market demand is such as to yield the greatest profit to the producer. Viewing the selection of these industries for the Institution from one phase of this principle, the Committee is able to make no recommendations; as we have not been permitted to study the local retail or wider wholesale markets to ascertain what articles that can best be produced by blind people would find the most ready market.

In making our report, therefore, we can but name some of the possible openings, and leave it for others with better advantages for determining the selection from a business point of view to choose from the list.

15. *The Broom Trade.*—First and foremost among all stands the time honored broom trade. It has long been recognized that the blind man can produce this article which has gone into proverb as one of the prime necessities of a well-regulated household, of just as good quality as his seeing competitor, and at sufficiently rapid rate to be moderately remunerative. While the machine-made broom has at times overstocked the market, it has always been of such inferior quality as still to leave a ready market for the hand made broom.

16. *Ability of Workmen to Determine.*—In the broom shop, as well as in every other department of the Institution, every person working as a wage-worker should be given to do that for which he possesses the most marked capability. The man who is of a mechanical turn and quick and handy with tools should not be left to size and prepare the corn, while the man with such qualifications is put on a winding machine. Every man's fitness should be that which determines what part of the work he should do. Those who come as apprentices with a view to leaving the Institution after having learned their trade, should, of course, be given every opportunity which the Institution can afford to fit themselves thoroughly to follow whatever line of industry they may have designed to pursue.



RESEATING CHAIRS.

17. **Shop Rules.**—It does not seem advisable to us to attempt to offer any suggestions as to the manner in which each industrial department should be conducted. That should be left to the individual foreman or to the management; except that the ordinary rules of any shop of like character ought to be equally applicable to any of these. And the foreman of every department should be encouraged to keep his work up to the highest possible standard, both for the market value of the product and for the influence to good and thorough workmanship on the part of the men.

18. **Workmen to Own Small Tools.**—It might be well here to suggest the adoption of a rule which we find in practice in various shops and institutions; viz., to require each wage-worker to own his own small tools, such as beaters, knives, needles, cuffs, etc. These might be furnished him from the Institution supplies, chargeable to his account, at the cost price of the article. This rule, if adopted in one department, should be carried throughout the entire Institution so far as should lie within the limits of practicability. It has the good feature of making every workman responsible for the proper care of his small tools, while it entails no burdensome expense upon any workman.

19. **Industry not Centralized.**—In our judgment, care should be taken to avoid too great centralization of industry. Rather than confining attention solely to the broom trade, as the Institution grows, it should aim to widen its industrial scope just as far as may be possible with profitable advantage to the Institution and its beneficiaries. This may demand a larger outlay of capital from time to time for properly equipping new departments; but we believe the results will amply justify the means.

20. **Willow Work.**—Willow work has been found, in many places, a profitable industry, baskets of all kinds, both large and small, together with other articles of similar nature, being produced. Splint basket-making has also been followed in some places and repairing of all kinds is done.

21. **Caneseating Chairs.**—The caneseating of chairs is an industry closely allied to the willow work. The success of this department depends mainly on the amount of repair work that can be secured, rather than upon putting out new work. We would suggest that apprentices learning these trades for future practice at their own home should be encouraged to learn more than one. Often by the correlation of two of them, a moderate livelihood could be made in many of the towns and villages throughout the state.

22. **Reupholstering Furniture.**—Closely related to the caneseating of chairs is the repairing and reupholstering of furniture. It has been amply demonstrated, both outside and inside of Institutions, that a blind workman can repair and reupholster as well and almost as rapidly as the seeing. And there is always a demand for this kind of work. But we must reiterate our previous statement, paragraph 16, that the workman must have some aptitude for this kind of work; not every blind man can do it.

23. **Cobbling.**—The cobbling of shoes has been found to be a lucrative following for some blind people, the chief hindrance to the blind workman being the inability to match colors properly, which difficulty can be overcome in most cases by obtaining assistance for a few moments

of some one with sight. In fact, there is hardly any occupation open to the blind but that this difficulty is encountered and must be overcome. The success of cobbling as an employment in the Institution would depend largely upon what arrangements could be made with the local shoe dealers to secure their repair work. Outside the Institution, every town and village throughout the country has its cobbling shop, which is an almost indispensable part of the business of the town; and there seems to be no good reason why the competent blind man cannot earn a livelihood by this trade.

24. *Coopering.*—There are also cases on record of blind coopers, who have not only learned the trade after loss of sight, but have carried it on, both for themselves and under the employ of others. Perhaps the tighter barrels, such as those designed for liquid contents, would be hardly practicable, although blind persons have made pork barrels very successfully. Salt barrels, apple barrels, etc., are then easily within the limits of production by blind people who are handy with tools. This suggests itself, too, as being a practicable employment for the Institution, as the surrounding country is such as to produce a market for such goods, if such market is not already overcrowded by other producers.

25. *Rug Weaving.*—The weaving of rugs from old ingrain or Brussels carpet is among the occupations which can be successfully operated by blind people. As a department of the Institution, however, it can only employ a limited number of men at a time, due to the size of the looms and the large amount of room required, and also the conditions which furnish such work to the factory. The factories outside the Institution are few in number, making it difficult for a blind person to find employment in them, unless the administration of the Institution shall find themselves able to assist competent blind people to find employment in other factories. This industry is necessarily confined to the larger cities, and hence presents difficulties, both financial and otherwise, in the way of one who would start such an industry for himself. Still, we must not pass this subject without stating that where it can be operated, it is one of the most remunerative employments open to blind people, either as employees or as independent workmen.

26. *Carpet Weaving.*—Closely allied to rug weaving is the weaving of rag carpet. This can be done very successfully by blind people, weaving any pattern whatsoever of rags or warp, only now and then requiring the assistance of a person with sight to separate properly the material, to set up a pattern in the warp, or now and then to determine the color of a broken thread. Probably, however, the demand would never be such as to make this an industry remunerative to the Institution; yet for those who come from rural communities where the well-made and most serviceable rag carpet still finds a welcome place in the home, we believe this an industry well worth considering. While not an excessively remunerative occupation, it is one at which a person may earn a moderate wage. The most modern and improved fly-shuttle machines are recommended for men pursuing this industry.

27. *Hammock and Net Weaving.*—Hammock and net weaving are rather too impracticable to warrant their being made a special department of the Institution, both because the production of the article is too slow to make any profitable sale of them at the prices demanded, and because of the difficulty of finding any adequate wholesale or retail

markets for any more than a very limited stock. Still, we would urge that if it can be taught as an adjunct to something else more practicable and important, it will bring in many dollars to the person who makes and sells these articles in his community, in connection with, or more properly, aside from his other business.

28. Mat Making.—As to the making of braided mats, we find it in only one or two institutions for the blind; and the machine mat of wire has so displaced the hand-made product, that we feel inclined only to mention it here without further comment.

29. Printing.—We find two institutions provided with printing departments. While in both of these such a large amount of sighted help was employed as to give them the appearance of being impracticable for introduction into institutions of this kind, we feel that their experience is hardly such as to justify too unfavorable conclusions. There are many branches of the printing industry that a blind person can operate successfully, such as running job presses, gathering, folding, stitching, stapling, etc. The experiments in this line so far have been carried on under such unsatisfactory conditions, that we do not find ourselves able at present to recommend positively the establishment and pursuance of this industry; yet we feel called upon to urge persons of influence and judgment not to pass too conclusively upon the demerits of it until it has had the advantage of more favorable conditions for a practical test.

SECTION IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIES FOR WOMEN.

30. Employment Limited.—We have made strenuous efforts in our researches to bring to light some remunerative occupation for blind women, the products of which should meet a public demand just as much as do those articles produced by the men. But we are forced to admit that we have not been as successful as we had hoped to be. A very few of the employments and industries which we here submit, may be made remunerative to some extent; but most of them will require persistent and zealous labor to produce greatly beyond the necessary cost of maintenance of the producer. This, in fact, is the plain statement from one or two heads of institutions from whom we have received communications. Yet the women are as deserving of help and assistance as the men; and we would urge in their behalf that no effort be spared that shall result in supplying them with some employment at which they may earn a wage at least slightly in excess of the cost of their maintenance.

31. Aptitude.—Care should be observed in all departments of the Institution where women are employed, that the work should be suited to the individual and the individual to the work before success will attend any efforts put forth. (See paragraphs 16 and 22.)

32. Domestic Work; Sewing and Mending; Work to be Done by Blind.—Much of the work of the domestic and other kindred branches of the Institution can as well be performed by blind women as by seeing. Especially will those blind persons who may previously have had some home training in any of these lines, adapt themselves readily to the larger sphere of needs and requirements of the Institution. And we would suggest here the application of the principle set forth in Section 13 of the Governing Act, as applying to all branches of the Institution,

that the blind people be given to do just as much of the Institution's work as they prove able to perform successfully. And we would urge that the conclusion on the part of the management that any branch of work cannot be performed by blind persons, should not be accepted until the fact has been attested by a thorough and practical demonstration, not by one person in one trial, but by many persons in many trials. All the machine and hand sewing upon articles for Institution use, not involving too difficult cutting, can be done by blind women; bed sheets, pillow cases, napkins, and towels, etc., might be supplied to the Institution at less cost by this means than by buying such articles ready made. All mending for the Institution can be done by blind women.

33. *Physical Requirement.*—Of the employments enumerated in Section 3 of this report, some are open to women. The requirements, however, are such as to make them practicable for those strong of hand and body. Superintendent Jones of the Institution at Hartford, Conn., says that blind women are, as a rule, weak; and we may credit him with sufficient experience and observation upon which to base his judgment. Accepting the truth of his statement, therefore, care should be observed in the selection of any of these employments to make sure that the physical strength and endurance required is not beyond the capacity of those who might thus be employed.

34. *Enumeration of Employment.*—Most baskets and forms of willow work may be made by blind women. Also the cane-seating of chairs is found to be practiced in some places. Hammock and net weaving may also be mentioned; but the objections noted in paragraph 27 render this impracticable as a regular employment. In a mattress making department, the ticks are often made by women; but in general, for some reason, the places are very few where they do the entire work. Carpet weaving may be done by the women; but we should recommend that in this they use the hand loom rather than the fly-shuttle machines, due to the physical requirements peculiar to the latter.

35. *Sewing, Fancy Work, Raffle, Etc.*—The department of sewing, fancy work, raffia making, etc., covers a broad range of products. In connection with this department, we should again call attention to sewing and mending mentioned in paragraph 32, relative to domestic service, etc. Many of the products of the fancy work department are either too slow in making or do not cater sufficiently to the needs of the public to make their production very remunerative. We herewith insert some lists of fancy and other articles taken from different institution reports, which were made by blind women or girls; and leave any selection of these to those better situated to judge of the opportunities for marketing the finished product. We state them here merely to record some of the various articles which have been made and marketed successfully in other places.

36. *Enumeration of Articles.*—In the report of the Pennsylvania Industrial Home for Blind Women (Philadelphia) for 1903, we find (page 10) the following list of articles made in the Institution: Afghans, balls for children, baskets, baskets repaired, bags made of silk crocheted and beaded, bags made of shoelaces, belts made of shoelaces, bead baskets, bead chains, bureau covers trimmed, capes, carpet rags cut and sewed, chairs caned, child's sweaters, cosies, covers for hotwater bags, dish mops, doll's dresses, dresses for women, dress skirts for women, garments made by hand,



SEWING BROOMS.

garments made by machine, gloves, hats crocheted, helmets knitted, hoods, infant's (hoods, leggins, sacques, socks, drawers, bibs and kimonos crocheted), jackets golf, kneewarmers, kimonos, lace, leggins, mittens, mittens of silk, neckties of shoelaces, nubias, pinballs, purses of silk crocheted, raffia boxes, raffia belts, raffia bags, raffia chains with beads, raffia baskets, scarfs, scissor shields, shawls, shoes, skirts knit, slippers, sleeping socks, stockings, socks (men's), table covers of paper napkins, tidies, teapot handles of basket work, wash rags, wristlets, wristlets of silk and watch fobs.

In addition to this list, we find, on the succeeding page of the same report, another list of articles in which occur the following not mentioned in the above: Match receivers, reins, sweaters, socks refooted, sewing of various kinds, tights, table mats and tam o'shaunters.

Again we find in the report of the School for the Blind (Columbus, Ohio) for 1903, a similar list of articles made by the girls of that Institution, from which we gather the following not contained in the above lists: Aprons, broom holders, button bags, bed pads, corset covers, cushion covers, coffee bags, doilies, dusters, hemming, laundry bags, iron holders, napkins, night dresses, infant robes, pillowcases, tablecloths, shirtwaists, tea bags, tucked yokes, towels, tea towels, and repairing of all kinds.

The above lists are not exhaustive; but may possibly be suggestive of a wide variety of articles which may be made in this department.

SECTION V.—SPECIAL LINES OF WORK FOR APPRENTICESHIP ONLY.

37. Occupations not Remunerative to Institution.—There is a class of occupations which would be of value to persons outside the Institution but the pursuit of which in the Institution cannot possibly yield any return financially. To place the Institution on the basis of greatest usefulness, some of these might well be added; but their pursuit will be only at additional expense. We leave any work along these lines without recommendation, hoping, however, that as the Institution grows and its usefulness increases, should a possibility of adding such industries arise, the management will not be averse to establishing and fostering such industries for the benefit of apprentices.

38. Piano Tuning.—In this class of employments falls most notably that of piano tuning. In this, however, in addition to a trained ear, an acute mechanical perception and ingenuity is required; and it might be a question as to how many adults who would come to the Institution to learn a trade would make successful piano tuners. And as long as a course of instruction in this branch is now given at the Michigan School for the Blind at Lansing, we do not at present feel called upon to urge its introduction and pursuit as one of the branches of the Employment Institution at Saginaw.

39. Domestic Science.—A training department in domestic science, etc., for the women would, we believe, serve a very useful purpose. There are many blind women, losing their sight after maturity, who would be glad of an opportunity to learn how they may best adapt themselves to the new condition as still to serve in their useful capacity as formerly in the home. The fact that such a course of instruction is already afforded by the School for the Blind at Lansing need in nowise

be a hindrance to its introduction into the Saginaw Institution. After the opening of the Employment Institution there will be little opportunity for adults to avail themselves of any of the privileges of the School at Lansing; nor, indeed, should there be. Just how far a department of Domestic Science might be made serviceable to the Institution would depend entirely upon the lines of organization. But we believe that, properly organized and conducted, it would assist many women to happy spheres of usefulness and independence.

Nor should we pass this subject without finally noting that in one Institution a blind man, who was a professional cook before the loss of sight, was learning, in the domestic science department, to follow his former vocation, and his efforts were being rewarded with success.

SECTION VI.—WAGE SCALE. LIMIT OF EARNINGS. WORKING HOURS, ETC.

40. *Introductory.*—As introductory to this subject, allow us first to introduce a paragraph from Mr. Shotwell's letter to the Board of Corrections and Charities already referred to in paragraphs 7 and 12, in answer to the third question: "The hours of labor, which should be prescribed by the Board of Trustees upon just and humane business principles, should be neither excessive nor trifling for any class of beneficiaries able to work; but, so far as practicable, the mechanical industries pursued at the Institution should be remunerated on a piece-price plan, with suitable regulations as to earnings per month or other unit of time, and with other provisions calculated to encourage independent enterprise and self-maintenance outside the Institution. Labor should be duly rewarded, and board should be furnished to suitable blind employees (wage workers) at cost. The shops should probably be in operation as many as forty-eight hours per week."

41. *Cannot Fix Definitely.*—In one sense, we are not competent to judge upon the wage scale as expressed in dollars and cents; for, as in some other things, the time and means at our command have not been such as to permit us to investigate the standard or current wage scales through the country for each separate industry which might possibly be introduced into the Institution. We can here only indicate the principles which we believe should be the basis of the wage scale.

42. *Wage Scale for Men.*—In all industries for the men, and also for the women, exclusive of the domestic and other kindred departments, pay the current or standard wages paid for the same work outside the Institution, except, just as far as practicable, pay on a piece-price basis rather than that of a time unit. The blind person in all mechanical industries is necessarily a little slower than his seeing competitor; this fact, however, should not be an inducement to pay on a time basis to give the workmen a "little charitable assistance," which practice is not unknown to some institutions of this country. "Opportunity and not Charity" is what the blind have been asking for for many years past; and we believe this should be practically applied in the Institution. The position of the wage workers in the Institution shops or factories should be that of the employee in any other shop; and he should be paid for what he produces. If it be found that the current or standard wage for any industry outside the Institution is paid on the basis of the time unit, we believe the average production of

a sighted laborer for that unit of time should be taken as the standard upon which Institution wages should be paid.

43. *Wage Scale for Domestic Branch.*—In the domestic and other kindred branches of the Institution, it is obvious that payment on a piece-price basis is impracticable. Here, again, we would urge adherence to prevailing schedules for domestic and similar service, for any given unit of time, making necessary allowance if it be found that blind women do not perform the duties of domestic service with the same swiftness and facility of the person with sight doing the same work.

44. *Earnings Limited.*—As suggested in section 1 of this report (paragraph 3), the Institution should so guard itself as not to encourage any blind person to leave a legitimate, honorable, and moderately remunerative calling or occupation to come to the Institution to labor with the idea of making greater financial gain with less responsibility. If allowed by the Institution to earn an unlimited amount, there are workmen in the state, not at present in need of the assistance of the Institution, but to whom this would be the opportunity of a lifetime to accumulate money. This might possibly crowd out some one in more need of the benefits of the Institution; and would certainly increase the difficulty of keeping all the output of the shops properly marketed. We would suggest, therefore, that a maximum limit be put upon the amount which any one workman may earn in a given time. This limit should be sufficiently great to allow proper deduction for board (if the workmen board in the Institution) together with necessary allowances for personal expenses, and still leave a possibility of saving something from such earnings for future use. We would suggest, in accordance with this plan, that a maximum limit of eight dollars a week be established and maintained, beyond which limit workmen should not be allowed to earn, except as the conditions of the market, at any particular time, might render desirable a temporary waiving of this rule. Any reaching this limit before the close of the week—which would only be possible by rapid workmen—should be encouraged to improve their time thus gained in doing work for people outside the Institution, or availing themselves of the opportunities for self-culture afforded by the library, etc.

45. *Working Hours.*—The working hours should neither be excessive nor trifling. We would suggest that the same rule as suggested for the wage scale would apply also as the basis of the working hours, viz., that the hours for labor in each department should correspond as nearly as practicable to the current or standard working hours for the same employment or service outside the Institution. The Institution is not a playhouse; and in general the practice of other establishments in any industry will form a sufficient guide to the number of hours of labor to be required.

46. *Apprentices Should Not Earn.*—We do not believe that apprentices should be encouraged to earn by over time, unless the demand of the market should prove greater than can be supplied by the overtime work of those working as wage workers. No encouragement should be offered to apprentices to remain as such any longer than is absolutely necessary (see paragraph 5). This rule might be waived in the case of an apprentice who is learning a trade for future practice outside the

Institution, provided that the management are satisfied that this is the desire and determination of the apprentice.

SECTION VII.—CHARGES FOR BOARD, LODGING, ETC.

47. Impossible to Fix Cost.—Section 11 of the Governing Act provides that board, lodging, washing, medical attendance, etc., shall be furnished to the wage working beneficiaries of the Institution at cost. It is impossible for us to name the exact figures which would cover these items from any statistics which we have been able to gather; and the cost would vary from time to time, according to the market prices of the various supplies. The rate should not be placed too low, encouraging those to board in the Institution who might otherwise be inclined to board outside; nor should it be placed too high, or it may work serious injustice to many of the women whose work will probably be of such character as not to permit of exceedingly high wages being made. (See paragraph 30.)

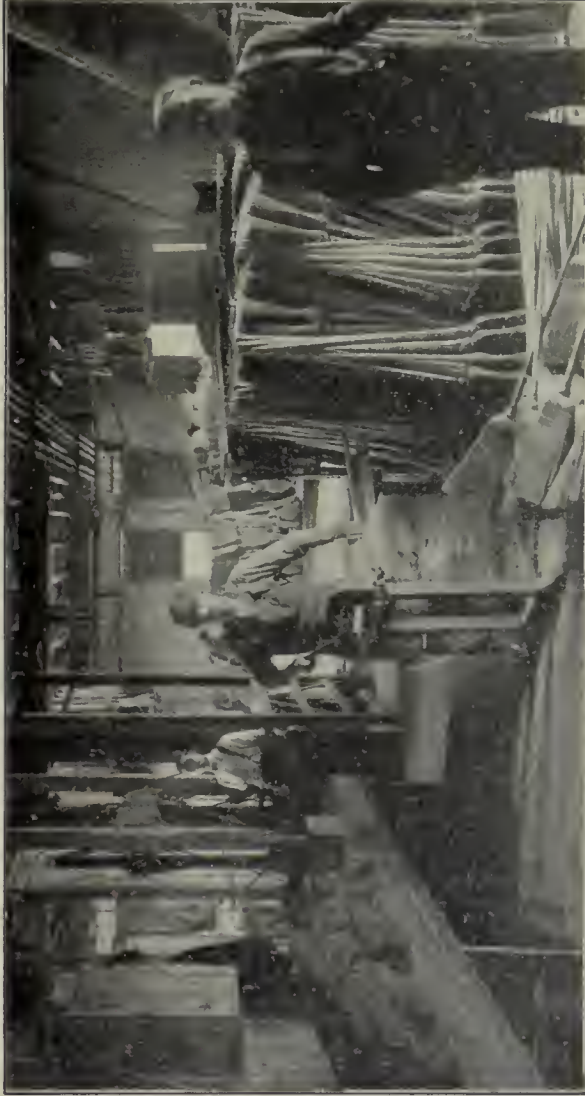
48. An Approximation.—It would seem that from about \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week would be a favorable approximation. This might cover the cost sufficiently, while it is far from probable that the Institution would make any exorbitant profit at these figures.

49. Comfort Rather Than Luxury.—For a class of people supposed to be working, a bill of fare, if substantial and wholesome and well prepared, need not be elaborate nor extravagant to meet the needs of all. Likewise, in all the appointments of the Institution, comfort may be made the prime consideration before catering to any desire of luxuries.

SECTION VIII. EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

50. Introductory.—So far as practicable, we believe it would not be inconsistent with the purposes and aims of the Institution to aid blind people enjoying its advantages to find suitable positions outside when they have attained, to a sufficient degree of competency to render to a sighted employer the services which he would require of any employee. As there is opportunity, the Institution might very commendably widen this plan of assistance to aid blind people throughout the state.

51. Employment Bureau; Usefulness; No Plan Submitted.—In section 10 of the Governing Act, we find that the Board of Trustees is authorized to open and establish, among other things, an employment bureau; while no plan has been formulated for such a department to submit at this time, we feel that the Institution may do valuable work in disseminating useful information to the blind of different occupations throughout the state which will materially aid them in buying and selling, finding positions, which they may be competent to fill, and giving out such information as may be of inestimable value to each in his particular line. It might also do much in aiding the blind to overcome popular misconceptions concerning them, which misconceptions often work harm to those striving to manage a business for themselves; such a misconception, for instance, is that most common one, supposing that because one blind man turns a hand organ on a street corner, every other blind person must necessarily and invariably belong to this much-to-be-deplored class. The value and usefulness of such a bureau of em-



CROPPING AND BUNCHING BROOMS.

ployment and information is almost unlimited; and we hope that as the Institution grows, this idea may grow with it in a practical form, resulting most beneficially to the blind in general throughout the state.

SECTION IX.—EXPERIMENTS FOR NEW INDUSTRIES OR PROFESSIONS OPEN TO THE BLIND.

52. *Introductory.*—There are some lines of employment which we believe could be successfully pursued by blind people; but as yet we find but little record of attempts made to develop them. We do not offer these as positive lines of industry or employment; but only suggest them in the hope that at some time a favorable opportunity will be offered for their trial under fair conditions.

53. *Artificial Building Stone.*—First among these is the making of artificial building stone from gravel and cement, which, at present, are meeting with a wide demand. These are made by machines about which there seems to be nothing which a blind person could not successfully operate, though with a trifle less rapidity than the seeing workman. Continued access to the places where these are made has not been permitted us, so as to make any demonstrations; but after carefully inquiring into the processes and machinery, we feel quite confident that a crew of blind workmen could operate one of these machines successfully and profitably. Possibly arrangements might be made with some manufacturers to secure the use of such a machine for a test; any effort in this line should be guided too by the wisdom of securing the simplest and least complex machine that could be obtained; also, for any such trial, a capable person should be chosen with whom to make the test. (See paragraph 16.)

54. *Confectionary.*—The fact that blind women can make all kinds of pastry, leads to an inference that they might successfully make many varieties of confectionery. Perhaps those candies requiring diverse coloring, as also the dipped candies, would present some difficulty; but there is still a wide variety which is not attended by these difficulties.

55. *Telephone Exchanges.*—The operating of telephone exchanges by blind girls in small towns or in large business establishments is an employment in the experimental stage which is attracting considerable attention. While not excessively remunerative, if it provides some blind women with a means of self-support, it is well worth any attention which may be given to it to develop its real practicability.

56. *Phonographic Typewriting.*—Efforts are also being made in some places to equip blind girls as stenographers by the use of the phonograph. Some of the advocates of this idea are very sanguine in their hopes for attendant good results. We only mention it here for any possible experiments which it may be found practicable in this line. (See paragraph 52.)

SECTION X.—CIRCULATING LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

57. *Introductory.*—We believe that in the case of many blind persons for whom the earning of a comfortable maintenance by their own exertions is not an imperative necessity, as well as in the case of many present and prospective wage workers, the suitable employment of their

mental faculties through the use of embossed books, periodicals, sheet music, etc., during their leisure hours, is essential to happiness for themselves and for those about them; and we would therefor recommend all profitable liberality in fostering the circulating library and reading circle which the Institution by law is required to maintain for the benefit of the blind people of this state. (See Governing Act, Section 10.)

58. Privileges to Whom.—We would recommend that the privileges of the library be freely offered to all trustworthy blind residents of the state furnishing satisfactory evidence that they are free from all communicable diseases and are able or learning to read any of the embossed literature or music in the library available for circulation as temporary loans to such readers, and that such loans will be safely preserved and promptly returned in accordance with the regulations governing the library.

59. To Draw at One Time.—Such readers might be permitted to draw or have in possession at one time for home or private reading a maximum not exceeding three bound volumes containing not more than four hundred pages of embossed matter, or a greater number of booklets, pamphlets, periodicals or pieces of sheet music, containing not exceeding one hundred and fifty pages of such reading matter (or weighing not more than four pounds, including mailing case or wrappers).

60. Time Limit.—The limit of time for the retention and return of publications in the library, might vary somewhat according to class or anticipated demand, etc. Thus, standard works not in exceptional demand might be loaned for a maximum term of thirty days with privilege of renewal during the last week of this period if not previously applied for by another reader who could not otherwise be supplied; while recent periodicals or other new and recently acquired works might be placed in a preferred class, to be returned within ten days in order to protect the equal rights of all readers.

61. No Charge: Ink Letter Press.—No charge should be made for the use of such publications so loaned, preserved and returned, except in case of ink reading matter, in which case the necessary cost of transportation might properly be collected in advance. We believe the library might properly contain some works in ordinary ink letter press of special interest or special reference to the blind, to be circulated only on deposit of required postage or express charges.

62. Fines.—A fine for failure to return reading matter within the prescribed time might be imposed, which might be computed at a rate of say one cent for each day's delay in the case of works costing not more than one dollar, and one per cent of the purchase price for each day's delay in the case of more costly works.

63. Forfeiture of Privileges.—Forfeiture of privileges should, of course, be enforced in cases of wilful disobedience of the rules of the library (or any flagrant disregard of the rights of its other beneficial rules).

64. Catalogues, Etc.—All duly qualified, approved and registered applicants for the privileges of the library should be freely supplied with lists of all the available reading matter for the blind in the library, which catalogues should indicate the author, title, edition, style of printing, to be found in each work so listed, and if embossed in sets, the general scope of each volume. And so far as may be found practicable, all

such catalogues and supplementary lists of accessions to the reading matter of the library should be issued in one or more of the most widely known systems of embossed point printing familiar to the blind readers of this state.

65. Duties of Librarian.—The librarian should keep a systematic register of the contents of the library and of the addresses and reading ability of its beneficiaries, and of the circulation of the several works and classes of works loaned to readers, and should, from time to time, prepare for publication suitable statistical abstracts of the work of the library. And so far as may be practicable, the work of the library, like that of other departments of the Institution, should be planned so as to be conveniently performed by competent blind persons. (See paragraph 32.)

66. Beneficiaries Informed and Aided.—The beneficiaries of the library should be advised concerning the applicable postal regulations as to the free transmission of reading matter for the blind through the mails to or from such libraries, and should be afforded all reasonable assistance in availing themselves of the privileges of the library and the advantageous use of its reading matter; and they should be rendered as nearly independent of sighted assistance as practicable in availing themselves of the benefits.

SECTION XI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

67. Introductory.—The appending of a few suggestions not easily classified under any of the foregoing heads, seem desirable before closing this report.

68. Reading and Writing Systems of Raised Print.—For those who would desire an opportunity to learn to read and write any of the systems of tactile print now in common use by the blind, it would seem that some provision ought to be made for their being taught. This would open to them all the facilities for entertainment and culture afforded by the library. Such instruction should be pursued during hours of liberty, so as not to conflict with the main purposes of the Institution.

69. Typewriting.—We would further recommend the installation of typewriters in suitable places in the dormitories, and that the beneficiaries of the Institution be encouraged to learn, practice and enjoy their use. There are some, also, to whom, for one cause or another, a course of instruction in scriptwriting with pencil and grooved card or other apparatus would prove of great benefit. This last, more particularly, because it is not expensive; and therefore within the possibility of possession and constant use by each individual.

70. Suggested Legislation.—It might be well to seek the enactment of two provisions of the original bill for the establishment of the Employment Institution similar to provisions in the act governing the Michigan School for the Blind at Lansing. The first of these relates to the clothing, traveling expenses, etc., of blind persons who are a public charge and are unable to defray these items of expense from their own earnings or estates. Such assistance given by the Institution to

any of its dependent beneficiaries should be properly certified to the Auditor General, etc., to be by him in due course collected from the proper counties and returned to the proper state fund. This has long been done in the case of the assisted wards at Lansing. The other enactment should provide that copies in detail of statistical information, relative to the blind of the state which may be reported to the Secretary of State under any law, shall be furnished to the Superintendent of the Employment Institution. Such statutory provisions having proved useful and acceptable in the case of the school for the young blind at Lansing, should prove far more serviceable for the adult blind at Saginaw; and no exception should be made concerning the young blind, as they will in due course come within the scope of the library or other benefits of the Institution.

71. Charitable Fund Agency.—It will be observed that no provision is made at present for the care and maintenance of the aged and infirm blind people, nor for those who through other causes than age are unable to provide any maintenance for themselves. Nor does it seem wise nor practical to ask the Legislature for aid along such lines. However, for those who may reach the age limit in the Employment Institution, as well as for many others dependent for one cause or another, some charitable provision should be made. The Board of Trustees of the Employment Institution is empowered by Section 6 of Governing Act to raise or receive any funds, donations, or bequests for these or any other purposes, and to administer the same. Would it not be advisable, practicable, and most beneficial for this Board to appoint an agency with one or more agents to raise funds by all proper and acceptable means, which funds should be appropriated to the establishment and maintenance of a home for the aged and infirm blind? This step commends itself most highly to our judgment; and we sincerely hope that the Board will find some means of carrying forward such a humane and beneficent work.

CONCLUSION.

We could wish that the time for the preparation of this report had been much longer. We have been enabled only to touch in the most general way the many important subjects which might be treated more justly in a far more extended analysis. We have covered the ground in such manner, however, as we hope may give you some useful suggestions upon which to enlarge.

The Michigan Blind People are deeply interested in this Institution for many reasons. It represents the outgrowth of the thought and effort of the blind people themselves. And consequently in closing, let us again express our sincere appreciation of the recognition and confidence of the members of this Board in the ability of the blind to aid materially in solving some of the problems which concern them. From a Board maintaining such an attitude toward the Institution and toward the blind themselves, we have reason to hope for much in the future from the Institution and from its various branches.

Thanking you again too for your courtesy and kindly recognition and

assuring you of our feelings of deepest interest in and good will toward the work with which you are entrusted, we have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

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